



**Washington Military Department
Emergency Management Division**

News Release

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Contact: Rob Harper, EMD
253-512-7005
Ted Buehner, NWS
206-526-6857

September is a month for Washington residents to prepare for natural and man-made hazards

CAMP MURRAY – Local, state and federal agencies will make the month of September a time for Washington residents to prepare to be safe from natural and man-made hazards.

Gov. Gary Locke has proclaimed September to be “National Preparedness and Weather Radio Awareness Month” and urged state residents to increase their knowledge and awareness of emergency preparedness actions they can take to make Washington “safe and secure” for the 21st Century.

The governor made the following recommendations:

- “Residents should prepare themselves to be self-sufficient for at least three days following an act of terrorism, or natural or man-made disaster.
- State agencies and state employees should prepare so they can continue to provide essential public services after a disaster and support the state’s disaster response and recovery mission.
- The use of information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric weather radios can reduce the loss of life and property from all hazards, including terrorism.

“NOAA weather radios save lives for the cost of a pair of shoes,” said Ted Buehner, warning coordination meteorologist at the Seattle Weather Forecast Office. “We want to make NOAA weather radios as common as smoke detectors in homes.”

“Weather radios are available at most radio electronic retailers and internet outlets and have a warning alarm that provides instant alerts around the clock,” Buehner said consumer incentive information about NOAA weather radios can be found at the Washington Emergency Management Division website at <emd.wa.gov>.

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, director, Washington Military Department, said the department’s Emergency Management Division had prepared a new brochure to provide tips and suggestions to help citizens to prepare for possible terrorism events.

He said state and local emergency managers urge state residents to implement the brochure’s preparedness steps at home and at work because “individual preparedness leads to state preparedness and helps retain our focus on freedom.”

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The new terrorism preparedness brochure is available from city and county emergency management agencies.

Barbara Everette Thurman, EMD public education manager, can provide additional information and background on Washington preparedness at (253) 512-7047

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